

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE



PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

5 August 2003

Ms. Anne Parent
Office of Library & Information Services
Library Programs
Dept. of Administration
1 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Anne,

I write to offer some support from an academic institution for the work that you and your OLIS colleagues perform.

Since arriving at PC three years ago, I have been impressed with the spirit of willing cooperation emanating from OLIS and from the library community in Rhode Island. Having spent eight years in the Midwest, I can attest to the fact that cooperation results in more services and resources for more people – and, it's the people we serve that deserve the very best we can provide.

I have been particularly impressed by two of OLIS' efforts. First, you and other OLIS staff have gone out of your way to keep the academic and research library community informed of program opportunities and happenings at the state, regional and national levels. By 'sharing' you have indicated a willingness to listen as well, and we in academe appreciate being in the know and part of the bigger picture. Second, your inclusion of academic and other librarians in developing long-range state plans for library services has been much appreciated. Many of us have experiences in multi-type library settings and feel we have something to offer – you have made it clear that OLIS seeks to listen to many voices, and I suspect the quality of the state plan is related to these efforts.

As one often sees on Carnegie buildings, the "library is the people's university." Government exists to make the lives of its citizens better and to provide

opportunities for people to improve their personal conditions. The American tradition is well-supported by having libraries at its core – knowledge and the record of past success (and failure) are available to every citizen in our libraries. OLIS has an important part to play in state library services, and I commend you and your colleagues for making every effort to involve the entire Rhode Island library community.

I'll conclude with a wonderful expression by John Milton: "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit." It doesn't take much to see how this quote relates to what we do as librarians, helping to keep hope alive and to provide all our citizens with the opportunity to develop that *master spirit*!

Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey".

Dr. Harvey Varnet